



Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap
104 East Erie St., Painesville, Ohio

2012 Annual Report

Detective Bureau Division ...



2012 Annual Report for the Detective Bureau

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do"
(Henry Ford)

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail"
(Benjamin Franklin)

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau has strived hard to embrace these two quotes as the standard we want to project to the public and the criminal justice community as a whole. We strive to complete accurate and detailed case reports leaving no stone unturned. We speak for the victims in an effort to afford them justice. We provide Prosecutors the tools and information they require to ensure justice is served in a fair and equitable manner.

2012 was another successful year for the Detective Bureau. The Bureau staffed by 3 detectives cleared a total of 258 cases.

Case Status - 2012

- 137 cases were sent for criminal charges
- 23 cases, victim refused to cooperate or go forward with charges.
- 52 cases were closed with insufficient evidence for prosecution
- 36 cases were deemed non-criminal in nature.
- 10 cases are still pending (carried over to 2013)

Case Breakdown by Township/Area

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| • Painesville Township | 124 cases |
| • Perry Township | 49 cases |
| • Concord Township | 53 cases |
| • Leroy Township | 15 cases |
| • Painesville City | 8 cases |
| • Mentor | 1 case |
| • Willowick | 3 cases |
| • Ashtabula City | 1 case |
| • Eastlake | 1 case |
| • North Perry | 1 case |
| • Madison Township | 2 Cases |

Note: The majority of the cases handled outside of the Sheriff's Office patrol area were cases involving internet crimes against children.

Percentages

- 53.1 % of all cases assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2012 were cleared by the filing of criminal charges.
- 20.1 % of all assigned cases were suspended due to insufficient evidence to move forward.
- 13.9% of all assigned cases were deemed non-criminal in nature.
- 8.9% of all cases the victim either refused to cooperate or elected not to go forward with criminal charges.
- Percentage Breakdown by Township
- 48.06% of all cases assigned to the Detective Bureau are derived from Painesville Township
- 20.54% are derived from offenses having taken place in Concord Township
- 18.99 % are derived from offenses in Perry Township
- 5.81% are from offenses in Leroy Township
- 6.6% are from areas outside of the Sheriff's Office patrol zones.

The Detective Bureau prides itself on the fact that due to complete and detailed cases preparation very few Detective Bureau cases go to trial. Last year 3 cases went to trial. We also pride ourselves on our working relationship with others, both in the public and private sector as they relate to the criminal justice field. The ability to interface at every level from local to state to federal, is a critical aspect in the successful resolution of complex cases which require the pooling of resources to achieve the common goal.

2012 Sick Time Usage by Detectives

- Captain Ron Walters – None used in 2012
- Detective Don Seamon – 1 day , one occurrence
- Detective Brian Butler – None used in 2012

Professional Affiliations

- Captain Ron Walters and Detective Don Seamon both continue to be active members on the Federal Bureau of Investigations Innocent Images Task Force with the goal of combating the sexual exploitation of children and the trafficking of children in the sex trade.
- Detective Don Seamon is a Terrorism Liaison Officer working through the Cleveland Regional Fusion Center.
- Captain Ron Walters and Detective Brian Butler are members of the U.S. Marshall Service Violent Fugitive Task Force for the Northern District of Ohio.
- Captain Ron Walters is a member of the Lake County Child Fatality Review Board administered by the Lake County General health District.

Emerging Trends and Issues

Technology based devices such as computers, cell phones and GPS units are being utilized and employed more and more by the criminal element as tools of the trade. Each of these devices can provide valuable information to a criminal investigator but have special requirements to examine this form of evidence. Additionally forensic hardware and specialized training on the utilization of the retrieval hardware is also required. There likewise exists an extensive backlog at labs equipped to examine these articles as well. Sheriff's Detectives have fostered a number of mutual working relationships at all levels of government with a joint task of investigating technology based crimes.

Illegal drug activity continues to have an adverse affect both directly and indirectly on the quality of life for residents. A conservative estimate would suggest that 60 to 70% of all serious crime investigated by the detective bureau is associated with drug usage in one form or another. Sheriff's Detectives have attempted to take a pro-active approach to this problem as well, working with limited resources we have been able to successfully prosecute parties involved in illegal drug trade in the townships.

With the precious metal prices at near all time high's we are seeing "cash for gold" businesses popping up all over. These establishments are "cash cows" for thief's who steal precious metals. Regulations need to be strengthened on these types of establishments which are now operating as legalized fencing operations within our communities. Repeatedly we have seen thief's break into homes, steal precious metals, sell the stolen items at cash for gold locations to fund drug habits.

Projected Goals

1. Continue to enhance a spirit of cooperation between agencies.
2. Add a fourth full time Detective to alleviate follow-up assignments to the patrol division and to enhance self-generated, proactive investigations such as Internet Computer Crimes.
3. Continue to work with Lake County Narcotics in an effort to identify and criminally charge anyone possessing and/or selling drugs in the townships.

Captain Ron Walters